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C.I.A. Protests Government Employees Safeguard Bill

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WASHINGTON—The Central Intelligence agency, in a highly unusual move, has quietly asked the senate judiciary committee to hear its private objections to a bill already reported to the senate for action.

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The bill is a measure designed to safeguard the privacy of government employees from unwarranted intrusions. Among other things it would limit the use of lie detector and psychiatric tests by all federal agencies, including the C.I.A.

C.I.A. officials, whose identity could not be learned

contacted Sen. James O. Eastland, D., Miss., the judiciary committee chairman, and Sen. Birch Bayh, D., Ind., to request a secret hearing on the agency's objections.

Eastland promptly passed along the C.I.A.'s request to the other committee members. He also distributed a letter from Sen. Sam J. Ervin, jr., D., N.C., opposing an executive session to hear the C.I.A.'s case.

Ervin is the principal sponsor of the privacy bill, which was originally slated for senate debate yesterday but was withdrawn from the schedule at the last minute.

Ervin's letter to Eastland warned that recommitment of the bill would "set an unusual precedent." But the North Carolinian said he would be

willing to have the C.I.A. testify in a public session.

"I would like to expose before the American people the specious arguments which the Central Intelligence agency puts forth as reasons for wishing an exemption . . . from the bill."

In an interview, Ervin elaborated his position, arguing that the C.I.A. has come to regard itself as immune from respecting the guarantees of personal freedom contained in the Constitution.

"They apparently don't want any law applied to

them," he said.

"They seem to think they ought not to be accountable for anything."

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